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Volume 13, Number 18

MICHAEL JORDAN'S MOTHER TELLS CHILDREN HARD WORK IS KEY TO SUCCESS

FLINT, Mich. (AP)—People wanted to ask Dennis Jordan the secret to the success of her son, Michael. She said the secret to all her children's success was simple: hard work.

"If you work hard, you can fulfill your dreams," she told students at Beecher's Day Elementary School on Monday as she appeared as part of National African-American Parent Involvement Day.

"It starts now — when you listen to your teachers and parents and ask them to be involved. Study hard, be disciplined and get good grades."

She has written a book, called "Family First," that delivers her message of love and parental involvement.

"You can do whatever you want in life," she said to the students. "Don't ever allow anyone to tell you that you can't. If you work hard, you can fulfill your dreams."

But she also told the children there is more to life than sports.

"Please don't just focus on being an athlete. Focus on being a doctor or anything you want. Focus on being a good human being and making a difference in society in whatever you do."

BLACK PLAYS PROMPT EXODUS OF THEATER SUBSCRIBERS

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—The Pasadena Playhouse lost 1,000 subscribers when it decided to offer two black-themed plays this season, and many of those who declined to renew their tickets expressed distaste in the offerings.

"We're surprised people actually vocalized that," said Michael Sande, a spokesman for the playhouse, which has about 16,000 subscribers. "Some people lost seats they had had for 10 years, and that's not the kind of thing we want to see."

"Mr. Rickey Calls a Meeting," is a drama about Jackie Robinson, who broke the color barrier in baseball when Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey put him on the team in 1947.

"Bigger Than Bubble Gum," is about a black disco group in the 1970s. The season's third play is "Equus," in which a boy blinds horses because of his guilt over having sex with a girl in the stables.

A local black leader blamed poor marketing by the playhouse.

"There's a high degree of appreciation for African-American art in this town, and it transcends color, ethnicity and socioeconomic status. If the playhouse is going to have specialized programs, they have to market them in a specialized way," said Taylor Morton, former president of the Pasadena branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

ROSIE O'DONNELL AND ROSA PARKS CHAIR STAND FOR CHILDREN 1997

WASHINGTON, DC—Hundreds of thousands of people across America will unite on June 1, 1997 in a massive local, national, and virtual "Stand for Healthy Children." Children's Defense Fund President and Stand for Children founder, Marian Wright Edelman, announced today Mrs. Rosa Parks, mother of the modern civil rights movement, and national talk show producer and host, Ms. Rosie O'Donnell, will serve as honorary co-chairs for Stand for Healthy Children.

The 1997/Stand for Children mobilization will include hundreds of local efforts to ensure that every child gets a healthy start in life—with the health coverage children need to grow and thrive, and healthy communities that allow children to breathe clean air, walk unimpeded to school, and learn unimpeded by violence or untreated health problems.

For information on mobilizing a "Stand for Healthy Children" in your community, contact the national office of the Children's Defense Fund in Washington at (800) 663-4032.



CITY NEWS

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Years after riots, Gavin Cato's father still years for justice

NEW YORK (AP)—Nearly six years after a car driven by a Jewish man killed a 7-year-old black boy, setting off deadly race riots in Brooklyn, the boy's father is waiting for justice.

"Where's my justice?" asks Carmel Cato, mourning his son Gavin. Two black men were convicted Monday in federal court of violating the civil rights of Jewish scholar Yankel Rosenberg, who was stabbed

to death during four days of riots in the racially mixed Crown Heights neighborhood. One, Lemrick Nelson, had been acquitted of murder in an earlier state trial.

The driver of the car that struck Gavin on Aug. 19, 1991, was never charged.

Rosenberg's family "didn't forget about it when they acquired" Nelson the first time. Why should it?

Cato told the Daily News on Tuesday. "I'm still waiting for someone to move forward and push for a federal trial or any trial for the death of my son."

"Now I have to watch the smiles of the Rosenberg family and just move on," Cato said.

"I can't rest. I can't stop until justice is served for me," he said in today's newspaper report. "I lost a son, too."

"There's not a day that goes by that I don't miss Gavin," Cato said last night. "Every detail just came back to me."

The driver, Yosef Lish, is living in Israel and Cato family representatives were unable to serve legal papers on him in 1991 for a wrongful death lawsuit. It was not immediately clear if the lawsuit is still active.

See FATHER YEARS page 10

REMEMBERING THE MOVEMENT

'60s music was the pulse of the nation

By Sonya Kimble-Ellis

Black America bore witness to two significant movements during the 1960s. The first, the Civil Rights movement, awakened the nation, spurring change in what often seemed an unchangeable society and unconsciously gave birth to the second, the Black Power movement.

Musicians and entertainers played a pivotal part in illustrating how blacks viewed and responded to the times. Music producer and songwriter James Murno, whose career was taking shape during that period, recently spoke to City News about music's role in the '60s.

"Music has always been a barometer for black people," Murno said. "If you listen to the music of that period, it clearly reveals what was going on in people's minds and communities." Murno cited selections from Curtis Mayfield's music library as perfect examples. The songs "Keep on Pushin'" and "People Get Ready" provided the motivation, and spiritual and emotional support that blacks sorely needed. Mayfield's music also provided a cushion for the emergence of the Black Power movement and paved the way for a song he later wrote called "We're a Winner." "That song reflected an uplifting spirit of the movement," Murno stressed. "It reflected the mind set of the people at the time."

Celebrity involvement in social and political issues of the day was on the upswing during the early and mid-'60s. Marching alongside Dr. King, and appearing and speaking at rallies were James Baldwin, Harry Belafonte, Lena Horne and many

others. Murno, who co-hosts WKRS-FM's morning talk show "Open Line," has clear ideas about what drew them to the movement.

One of the most important things about a movement is its leader," he explained. "When you have someone as eloquent and as passionate as Dr. King was, and who drew in people the way he did, it was inevitable that his message would speak to everyone... including entertainers."

Murno credits athletes of that period with, having social consciousness as well. The well-known photograph of two black athletes standing on the podium with their fists raised in the air at the 1968 Olympic Games, spoke volumes about their dedication and commitment to an ever-evolving movement.

"At that time," Murno said, "you saw Black people willing to sacrifice. They realized that the only time you could sacrifice was when you had a goal that was larger than yourself. That kind of will to sacrifice is missing today."

In response to the fact that this generation is missing the type of leadership that was present in the '60s, Murno stressed that subsequent generations failed to leave a movement for today's Black youth to follow. Instead, actors, directors and the like are often asked to respond to political and social questions concerning issues they know little or nothing about. "We're going to stop being confused about what leaders are," Murno concluded.

Currently, Murno acts as composer and musical director for the weekly Fox show "New York Undercover." He is continually developing Real to Real, his new label distributed by MCA Records.



Murno produces music for many artists that appear on the FOX television show "New York Undercover." Here he is shown on the set with Roberta Flack.

Former soldier goes on trial in slaying of black civilians

By Estes Thompson
Associated Press Writer

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. (AP)—A

former Fort Bragg soldier accused of murdering two people simply because they were black once said his skinhead activities would end "when he killed someone." His ex-girlfriend testified Tuesday.

In the first day of testimony in James Burmeister's trial, Kelly Cook Kelly testified that during a visit she was surprised to find him listening to hate music and decorating his barracks with Nazi flags.

She later wrote him it was just a

phase. "He told me I was right," she said, "and it would be over when he killed someone."

Prosecutors say the killing happened nine months later, in December 1995, when Jackie Burden, 27, and Michael James, 36, were shot while taking a walk.

They were "gunned down, merely because they existed, merely because their skin color was different," prosecutor John Dickson said in his opening statement Tuesday.

The case is "a story of evil, an evil that has its roots... in Adolf Hitler and his gang of henchmen causing the deaths of millions of people... an evil brought back to life here in Fayetteville by this defendant and a gang called

skinheads," Dickson said.

But the defense, in its opening statement, called the case against Burmeister a tale of lies told by a man trying to save himself.

"Right from the word go, lies," said defense attorney Carl Ivansson. He said the state's case hinges on the report of Randy Lee Meadows, 22, who pleaded guilty to conspiracy and accessory charges and is expected to testify against Burmeister.

If convicted, Burmeister, 21, also charged with the death penalty, also charged with first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder was Malcolm Wright, 22, who will be tried later. All three were members of the 82nd Airborne.

Army investigators said they found evidence that Burmeister and Wright were members of a skinhead group and that evidence pointed to the killings as an initiation.

Mrs. Kelly, of Susquehanna, Pa., testified Burmeister had shaved his head and was wearing a flight jacket with an iron cross on it. She said Burmeister told her the white leeches in his Doc Marten work boots symbolized white supremacy, and yellow leeches would mean the wearer had killed someone.

During her testimony, the jury listened to some of the music Burmeister owned, including the song "Third Reich," which included lyrics about killing blacks and Jews.

Mfume vows active agenda for NAACP in 1997

BALTIMORE (AP)—NAACP President Kweisi Mfume says he plans an aggressive agenda for his second year at the helm of the civil rights organization by focusing on civil rights enforcement, voter empowerment, fund raising, education and youth outreach.

"We may be more active than people want," Mfume told The Baltimore Sun in an interview in today's editions.

Mfume, 48, a former congressman from Baltimore hired last year to lead the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, gets generally high marks from activists and analysts for his first year of work. He is credited with cutting down the organization's \$3 million deficit, modernizing a proud but creaky institution and restoring a good name tarnished by mismanagement and scandal.

But there are those who say the NAACP is missing in action on some major battles.



Michael Meyers, leader of the New York Civil Rights Coalition, said the NAACP was "virtually invisible" last year.

Mfume says America will see a more active NAACP in 1997.

"Last year was a very unusual year," he said, adding he spent much of it learning the NAACP's operation and history, as well as raising money and clearing up debt. "It left little time

for anything except to react when situations came up."

As he prepares to address the NAACP annual meeting in New York on Saturday, Mfume outlined his plans for the year. The NAACP will focus efforts on five areas: civil rights enforcement, voter empowerment, educational excellence, economic development and youth recruitment, he said.

He plans to hire up to 20 new employees for the national staff to work on a variety of issues, including servicing the NAACP's 1,700 branches.

Mfume also plans to launch a five-year drive to build a \$50 million endowment, double the organization's youth and college chapters, issue report cards on members of Congress and revive the NAACP's dormant magazine, "Crisis."

Critics say the action is slow in coming. For example, Ronald Walters, a University of Maryland College Park political scientist, criticizes Mfume's

handling last year of Texaco Inc.

The company came under fire in November for discriminatory tape-recorded remarks made by top executives.

Mfume gave Texaco 30 days to devise a diversity plan or face a stock divestiture campaign. The same day, the Rev. Jesse Jackson called for an immediate boycott. When Texaco unveiled its plan a month later, Jackson got most of the credit.

"We don't need another Union League," Walters said, referring to the New York-based civil rights group known for its corporate ties. "We need an organization that can do what Jesse Jackson has been doing—mobilize people, bring pressure to bear, things the NAACP has always stood for."

But Brian W. Jones, president of the conservative Center for New Black Leadership, countered that Mfume has emerged as a moderate voice who "appeals to the vast middle of the black community and to mainstream America in general."

WHITE HOUSE DEFENDS CLINTON CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD

By Sonya Ross
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House did not put a private commission's assertion that President Clinton does not have enough direction on civil rights matters, saying he has pursued equality "at great political cost."

The Citizens' Commission on Civil Rights issued a report Monday that praised Clinton for his quick response to the recent church arson, but accused his administration of indifference toward long-term problems, such as the impact of turning over federal responsibilities to states and releasing school systems from old desegregation orders.

"These failures, along with actions such as the president's decision to sign the welfare bill... have nevertheless cost him the trust of many," the commission said.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton not only has sought to preserve efforts to correct past discrimination against women and minorities, but has also used his presidency "to address very eloquently the problems of race in our society."

"We would take strong issue with that report," McCurry said. "This is a president that has done a number of things... and sometimes at great political cost."

The commission pointed out that Clinton has never designated one White House aide as a civil rights liaison. Advocates said they never really know where to take their concerns.

"There isn't anybody right now that I know of," said commission Vice Chairman Bill Taylor, who was staff director of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under President Johnson. "It would be a small but very helpful step right now to appoint some person to have that responsibility."

The commission is a bipartisan group formed in 1982 to monitor the federal government's civil rights practices. Most of its members are former Cabinet officers or heads of federal civil rights agencies.

The commission's report, issued every two years, came at a time when Clinton has been increasingly outspoken about healing the nation's racial divide. Last month, the administration joined the legal effort to block implementation of California's Proposition 209, which would eliminate the state's affirmative action programs.

It also came as Republican leaders in Congress have been reaching out to black leaders—including liberal Jesse Jackson—in an attempt to improve race relations.

Taylor said Clinton is not precise in articulating problems and solutions. He said, for example, that Clinton has "addressed specifically targeting blacks and Hispanics in federal efforts on easing poverty."

"There are only two groups that live in concentrated poverty in this country—African Americans and Hispanic Americans," Taylor said. "The commission does not see that the administration has developed policies that would give them real access."

The commission urged Clinton to propose and press for passage of legislation that would erase the inequalities facing blacks and Hispanics. But it also said it doubts whether Congress would approve such legislation, given its general opposition to race-specific remedies.

Nevertheless, if President Clinton exercises the necessary leadership, there is every reason to believe the nation will make more progress," the commission said.



Community Calendar

FEBRUARY 26, MARCH 19, APRIL 2
WAYNE—Interactive television (ITV) course can be taken at William Patterson College, Haskins Heights High School, Westwood High School, or School #26 in Patterson. For more information, call 201-595-2436.

THROUGH MAY 10
JERSEY CITY—Jersey City State College will offer a preparation course for the NJ Real Estate Salesperson's (Agent) Licensing Examination on Saturdays 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at the JCS campus at 2033 Kennedy Blvd. For further information call (201) 200-3089.

THROUGH MARCH 27
UPPER MONTCLAIR—An eight-week "English as Second Language" program is being offered at Montclair State University. Registration will be held on Jan. 13 and 15. For more information call (201) 655-4383.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
PLAINFIELD—A three-part training session, sponsored by CHEMCO, is for members and their family members at Mulchenberg Regional Center, 500 Mulchenberg Rd. For more information, call 201-595-1103.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
MAHWAH—Dr. Angela Crestini, professor of biology at Ramapo College of New Jersey, and a member of Governor Whitman's Drogged Materials management task force, will continue Ramapo College's Free State Faculty Lecture Series with a talk, "I'm at the College. Herpetic will be The Haxor. Educator's Choice." For more information, call 201-529-7500.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
WEST ORANGE—Presentation on winter sports injuries sponsored by the Kessler Sports Institute, 6:30 pm at the Kessler Institute. For more information call (201) 245-6609.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
SPASSAUME—Lecture, "Till Death Do Us Part: Spousal Murder in Victorian England," discussing common themes from Victorian era popular literature and contemporary "media circus" trials. 7:30 pm at William Patterson College. For more information, call 201-595-2436.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders will have a workshop meeting at 2 pm and a regular meeting at 8 pm. For more information call (908) 431-7387.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20
PLAINFIELD—Performance by famed civil rights leader Martin Luther King and his companion Ron Wolfe at the Senior Center. For more information, call 908-753-3508.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20
EDISON—Lecture, "An African Value System: The Key to Our Success," by Hassan Salim. 12 noon, Middlesex County College, Room 319, College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (808) 505-2566.

NEW YORK—Author Brooke Stephens (Talking Dolls and Making Sense) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble For more information, call 212-765-0592.

EAST ORANGE—Teen Summit. Smirns on writing business, technology, legal system, and more from a teen perspective. 12-7:30 pm at the Black United Fund of New Jersey Headquarters. For more information, call 201-67-NUBUF.

TELEVISION program, "Civil Rights Museum" will air on OVSSEY (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 12 pm. The program takes a tour through an institution built in tribute to the battles that were fought to secure civil rights and freedoms of African-Americans.

TELEVISION program, "African-American Artists: Animation Today" 8:30 pm on Ch. 13.

WAYNE—Lecture and Discussion, "Blacks in Politics," 12:30 pm at William Patterson College. For more information, call 201-595-3100.

NEWARK—University High School's Drama Club will have a presentation on Black dialog as expressed in drama deferred. For more information, call 201-733-8677.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21
NEW BRUNSWICK—Malcom X Poetic Celebration featuring Abiodun Oyewole of the Last Poets. 6 pm Middlesex County College Center, 319 George St. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (808) 505-2566.

NEW YORK—Author Jane Lazarre (Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness: Memoir of a White Mother of Black Sons) will lecture 12:30 pm at the Rockefeller Barnes & Noble For more information, call 212-765-0592.

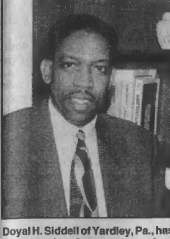
TELEVISION program, "Spread the Word: The persuasions sing A Cappella" 9:30 pm on Ch. 13.

NEWARK—Re-enactments of the ac-

Donna M. Wilson, Doyal H. Siddell appointed corporate services rep at Thomas Edison



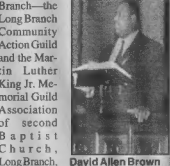
M. Wilson of Hamilton Township, N.J., has been appointed corporate services representative at Thomas Edison State College. In her role with the college, Wilson is responsible for helping the college increase enrollments. Wilson will work primarily with corporations, providing information and programs needed to help employees better manage their lifelong learning.



Doyal H. Siddell of Yardley, Pa., has been appointed corporate services representative at Thomas Edison State College. In his role with the college, Siddell is responsible for helping the college increase enrollments. Siddell will work primarily with corporations, providing information and programs needed to help employees better manage their lifelong learning.

Mounmouth County hosts King birthday observances

by Avery Grant



Long Branch Public Housing Authority was the guest speaker. Stressing that it is up to everyone to make the dream work, he said, "We must turn on each other rather than turn on each other. If you want the dream to work and you are black, I invite someone who is white to your home, and if you are white invite someone who is black to your home."

Brown, a past president of the Long Branch NAACP Branch and is active with youth in the city said, "If you want the dream to work you must sit down and talk with your kids. We must tell and teach them what is right. We must stop the kids who are selling drugs, and when we see crime we report it." He challenged the youths to be the best and to do the best to achieve goals. He asked for support with recreation for the youths, "but not just basketball and baseball, but also with chess and performing arts."

Long Branch Public Housing Authority was the guest speaker. Stressing that it is up to everyone to make the dream work, he said, "We must turn on each other rather than turn on each other. If you want the dream to work and you are black, I invite someone who is white to your home, and if you are white invite someone who is black to your home."

Your Weekly Horoscope

BY MISS ANNA
IF THIS WEEK IS YOUR BIRTHDAY: You will not doubt achieve your greatest successes by listening to the comments and advice from others, formulating a long range program, and finding joy in your accomplishments and goals, no matter how small they may seem to you. You also have a tendency to speak before you think, hurting those close to you.

Financial prospects are excellent this week, especially if you join up with another to pool both your know-how and resources. It's advantageous to your monetary goals to be flexible and roll with the punches. You yearn to travel - so start planning.

TAURUS: (April 21 - May 21)
Now's the best time to start a new partnership, whether in business or romance, the results will definitely be very positive. Keep your physical energy high. Money dealings will intensify in the next few months, be very careful about the details.

GEMINI: (May 22 - June 21)
Your mind may be totally on pleasure and time during the week, it's time to think about improving your living situation. Be cautious and heed others' business suggestions. You'll be the capabilities to tackle any challenges thrown your way, and win.

CANCER: (June 22 - July 23)
There's a new chapter in your love life ready to be written - be patient, all the details will be in due time. Romance will continue to be dominant for the next several months, so enjoy it. Even if you are tempted, refrain from making any hasty decisions.

LEO: (July 24 - August 23)
The thought of work doesn't do much for you, but it will be surprising just how much you will accomplish if you just put your nose to the grindstone. Keep in mind in the future that you will benefit from a more intellectual approach to money-making ideas and finances.

VRGO: (August 24 - September 23)
Hard work is the key throughout this week. There is friction on the job which can be avoided with diplomacy. The chance to enhance your working skills is good, look for opportunities, however small they may seem. The solution to a nagging problem is evident.

LIBRA: (September 24 - October 23)
This week will be a lot more active and rewarding than the past couple of weeks. Real estate could be a profitable area now. Your financial bandwagon rolls along, producing profits which will be more evident in the next few weeks. Concentrate on doing things yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 24 - November 22)
Try to look at things with a fresh perspective. If you go about accomplishing things differently, you may be amazed at how much you'll get done. The next few weeks will favor financial planning, so work closely with someone who knows the business well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 23 - December 21)
The prevailing theme is tranquility. Events may be filled with enjoyable social events and romantic interludes. You have attracted the attention of a VIP at work, someone who can help you advance your career and personal goals. Keep your attitude upbeat.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 - January 20)
Your friends are very supportive, and if you are working on a personal goal, they will be able to give you some good advice. A lucky opportunity may enable you to climb up a few additional rungs on the ladder of success. Trim down your expectations to parallel with reality.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 - February 19)
You will meet a whole new circle of people capable of stimulating you on an intellectual level. These new friends will help clarify any important objectives which have been fuzzy. Steer clear of any known troublemakers in the workplace, they may hamper your progress.

PISCES: (February 20 - March 20)
Distant friends or family will dominate your thoughts and actions. Start working on that special project which may have to do with a home matter. Beware of being overly optimistic concerning finances - remember to not count your chickens before they're hatched.

Black History Calendar

THROUGH FEBRUARY 22
PLAINFIELD—Exhibit of Booker T. Washington Silver Hall Dollars, from the collection of Roland Franklin. Slave dolls by crafts person Shirley Banks, in the main lobby. Plainfield Public Library, 6th Street at Park Ave. For more information, call 908-757-1111.

THROUGH MARCH 31
MONTCLAIR—Exhibit in honor of Black History Month at the local Cape House. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

THROUGH APRIL 25
NEW YORK—Art exhibit, "African-American Pioneers" at the Seagram Gallery, 375 Park Ave. For more information, call 212-572-7379.

FEBRUARY 22, MARCH 1, 8, 15, 22
NORTH BRANCH—Sky Show, "Follow the Drinking Gourd," which will teach the importance of the Big Dipper to runaway slaves at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, Rte. 26 & Lannington Rd. For more information call (908) 231-8805.

ENGLEWOOD—"Freedom Train," the true story of Harriet Tubman, at the John Harris Theater. For more information, call 1-800-JERSEY7.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19
EAST ORANGE—Presentation & Discussion, "Dr. W. E. B. Dubois: Continuing his tradition and legacy of Leadership & Scholarship," 5-6:30 pm at the Black United Fund of New Jersey Headquarters. For more information, call 201-67-NUBUF.

EDISON—Lecture and demonstration, "The History of Stepping," featuring the Harlemites Steppers and the Flava Unit Drill Team. 12 noon, at Middlesex County College, Cateletta C. College Center, 155 Mill Rd. For more information, call Patrick Mathias, (808) 505-2566.

TELEVISION programs, "Sermons and Sacred Pictures and the Last Breese of Summer," will air on OVSSEY (formerly the Faith & Values Channel) at 10 pm, and will repeat at 1am. These programs document the life of the Rev. L.O. Taylor, a Baptist minister and filmmaker in the 1930s and 1940s. The Last Breese of Summer is about the prejudice of age and the prejudice of the 1950s.

JERSEY CITY—Theodore Brunson, curator of the Afro-American Historical and Cultural Museum in Jersey City, will speak on "Slavery in Hudson County," 10 pm at Jersey City State College, 2033 Kennedy Blvd. For more information, call 201-200-3024.

PISCATAWAY—Exhibit of works by Adams Adams at Livingston College Student Center, Rutgers University.

complishments of famous black Americans 1-2 pm in the auditorium of the Oliver Street School. For more information, call 201-733-8677.

EAST ORANGE—People's Organization for progress, "Malcom X and the Youth" 7-9 pm at the Black United Fund of New Jersey Headquarters. For more information, call 201-67-NUBUF.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22
EAST ORANGE—Tale Spinning with the Griots, storytelling with JB Waters, Jaleesh Karriem, Butterfly Reflections and African Dancer Yawande. 10am to 4pm at the City Hall Rotunda. For more information, call 201-666-0120.

NEWARK—Film, "Two Dollars and a Dream" by Shirley Newman, about the life of Madame C. J. Walker, first African-American millionaire. Part of The February Film Series at the Newark Museum. Billy Johnson Auditorium, 49 Washington St. For more information, call (201) 595-6550. For TVT, call (201) 595-6555.

PLAINFIELD—"Using African-American history year-round in the field," by Dr. Jennifer Durham. 2 pm, Plainfield Public Library, 8th Street at Park Ave. For more information, call 908-757-1111.

WAYNE—NAACP Semi-Formal. 9pm at William Patterson College. For more information, call 201-595-3100.

LINDEN—Fifth Annual African-American Festival from 11 am to 6 pm at Linden High School. For more information, call 908-862-3287.

TELEVISION program, "Cinema Thrills: Hyenas" 9 pm on Ch. 13.

TELEVISION program, "Biography Duke Ellington": Documentary. On the A&E Network.

TELEVISION program, "Cinema Thrills: Three Tales from Senegal: 'Le Franc,' 'Pec M. A. Lundy' (808) 755-0788.

FEBRUARY 23-25
CHICAGO—Rainbow/PUSH Coalition Conference on Education. Theme: "Closing the Gap" For more information, call 202-728-1180.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23
PLAINFIELD—Soul Food Luncheon at Cross of Life Church, 1240 East Seventh St. Will feature a performance by The Parkfield High School Gospel Choir. Cross of Life Church, 1240 East Seventh St. For more information, call Rev. Carol A. Lindsay (808) 755-0788.

TELEVISION program, "Marshall": Documentary. On the A&E Network.

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1000 Springfield Avenue, P.O. Box 227
EAST ORANGE:
27 Franklin Road

FREEDHOLD:
Highway 104, P.O. Box 104
HILLSIDE:
125 Liberty Avenue
BRYNMAWR:
2400 Springfield Avenue
Springfield Center
LIVINGSTON:
400 South Livingston Avenue
271 East North Road
LONG BRANCH:
100 Main Street

MADISON:
1100 Highway 104
MILLBURN:
200 Main Avenue
NAVESINK:
Highway 92 and Valley Drive
PLAINFIELD:
Highway 92 and Valley Drive
SHORT HILLS:
The Mall (Opposite Lowe's)

SPRINGFIELD:
1700 Main Avenue
Hudson and Main Avenues
SPRING LAKE HEIGHTS:
Highway 17 and Main Avenue
TEANECK:
800 Main Street, Day Place
Below The Center
TEANECK:
1700 Main Avenue
Below Shopping Center, Route 224

BRIEFS

CLINTON OR SIMPSON? WHAT THE NETWORKS DID

A snapshot of how some of the networks handled the conflict between the State of the Union address and the O.J. Simpson verdict Tuesday.

ABC: Stayed with President Clinton, framed by text of first verdict. Only network to run considerable video of president shaking hands in chamber, though voice-over concerned Simpson. Ran live coverage of Republican Rep. J.C. Watts' response to Clinton.

CBS: Went with text bulletin superimposed onto image of Clinton leaving podium. Cut away the moment he finished. Returned for live coverage of Watts.

NBC: Ran box with first verdict on the side of screen as speech ended. Then broke to live Simpson coverage from MSNBC, its cable channel, which stayed with Simpson story almost continuously. NBC covered Watts' speech live, although some local affiliates chose to stay with Simpson coverage and air the Watts speech later.

CNN: Broadcast Clinton's address in its entirety and waited until well after first mention of Simpson verdict. CNN's Headline News channel stayed with Simpson through entire verdict delivery. Covered Watts' speech live.

Fox: Stayed with Clinton until the end, with text bulletin saying verdict was upcoming. Cut to live Simpson coverage as Clinton's applause was dying down. Network coverage was simulcast with Fox News Channel. Covered Watts' speech live.

PRESIDENT SAYS AMERICANS SHOULD RESPECT SIMPSON JURY VERDICT

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—Americans should respect the O.J. Simpson jury verdict, President Clinton said Tuesday although he expressed concern that blacks and whites generally disagree on the outcome.

"In terms of the jury verdict, that's the system we have in America. It's over as far as I'm concerned," Clinton told reporters at the White House.

"We need to get on to other things. But we always need to be working on how to bridge these divides between us."

A mostly white jury decided Monday to impose a \$25 million punishment on the former football star for the death of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman.

When a mostly black jury acquitted Simpson of criminal charges in October 1995, the president also said Americans should respect the verdict.

Public opinion polls show Americans are racially split on the question of Simpson's guilt or innocence.

"In terms of the way Americans see the world differently, generally, based on their race, that troubles me," Clinton said. "I think the only answer to that is for us to spend more time listening to each other and try to put ourselves in each other's shoes and understand why we see the world in different ways and keep trying to overcome that."

CIA BACKED CONTRA REBELS

Activist Joe Madison promised to "fast as long as it takes" until legislation is passed that would declassify all records relating to charges that the CIA-backed Contra rebels shipped cocaine from Central America and then sold the drug to Black gangs in Southern California to finance its war against the ruling Nicaraguan government. On Jan. 23, 1997, the 100th day of a grueling hunger strike, it became clear that he has taken a toll on the civil rights veteran. He now suffers from frequent headaches, a reduced energy level and has dropped nearly 30 pounds. "I may have lost considerable weight, but I haven't lost any of my determination to keep this issue before Congress, the President and the American people," he said.

Big civil verdicts make headlines not-so-big collections don't

By Deborah Hastings
Associated Press Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Martin Meyer took a high-profile murder case into civil court and won what is considered the largest wrongful-death judgment in U.S. history — \$5 billion.

Like attorneys opposing O.J. Simpson in his civil trial, Meyer pursued Bertella's future earnings even though the defendant pled poverty. The admitted killer of six men, Bertella also was trying to mark book and film rights dealing his reputation of torture, imprisonment and murder in Missouri.

Unlike Simpson, Bertella confessed and was sentenced in 1992 to

life in prison. He died of a heart attack one year later.

Simpson has steadfastly denied, and was acquitted of, the slaying deaths of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman. A civil jury found him liable in the deaths and awarded a total of \$33.5 million in compensatory and punitive damages.

It took nearly two years for Meyer to collect anything on behalf of his client, Betty Ann Hastie, the mother of 25-year-old victim Todd Stoops. In 1994, Meyer settled for \$2.5 million — more than he ever hoped to get — with Bertella's insurance company.

Bertella's homeowner's policy was only worth \$100,000. But Meyer proved that negligence — and not-out-and-out murder — killed Stoops be-

cause Bertella had administered the wrong antidote to his victim kept tied to a bed for nearly two weeks.

Negligence was covered by Bertella's policy. The jury award was levied against the insurer, which settled rather than pay \$600,000 a day in interest on the \$5 billion judgment.

"In the absence of a corporate defendant or insurance, it's very difficult to collect," Meyer said Tuesday from his Kansas City, Mo., office. "Even with fairly wealthy defendants ... there really is no concrete way to make them stand still to collect it. It's a real cat-and-mouse game."

That difficulty increases with the dollar amount of the verdict. The awards against Simpson — which still can be reduced by the trial judge —

are large by civil standards.

The median compensatory award for wrongful death suits involving victims Goldman's age is \$633,000, and \$500,000 for punitive awards, according to Jury Verdict Research, a Pennsylvania-based firm that maintains a national database of personal injury verdicts.

Goldman's long-divorced parents, Fred Goldman and Sharon Rufo, were granted \$8.5 million in compensatory damages and \$12.5 million in punitive damages.

Compensatory damages were not sought by the Browns. The median punitive verdicts in wrongful death suits involving female victims Ms. Simpson's age is \$400,000. Ms. Simpson's estate — representing her two children by Simpson — was awarded

\$12.5 million in punitive damages.

A 1996 survey of mammoth jury awards found that even those that make headlines and generate calls for tort reform are often cut substantially before they reach the plaintiffs. The Los Angeles Times reviewed 25 large personal injury awards in 1993 in cases ranging from a fatal plane crash to a needless amputation. The year would allow for later appeals.

The Times found that plaintiffs in 18 cases pocketed, on average, less than one-fifth the jury award. Legal and court costs cut that amount by another third to a half in most cases. No injured litigant or family collected more than 60 percent of the original award.

Restoration of slave dungeons in Ghana brings Debate

By Beth Duff-Brown
Associated Press Writer

ELMINA, GHANA (AP) — Tiptoeing down the narrow slope from the dungeons to the dreaded Door of No Return, you are hit by a salty sting that speaks of centuries of tears and sweat and sea at the Elmina castle in Ghana.

The black man's waste that for three centuries filled the cracks between the white man's bricks has not been fully removed. Visitors can still sense what it must have been like for hundreds of thousands of Africans forced to stoop through the Door of No Return and into slave ships waiting below.

"The female dungeons still has about it an odor ... the dirt, the centuries of filth, the fear," said Constance Garcia-Barrio, a black American who recently visited the Elmina castle, built by Portuguese traders in 1482 and still standing on a cliff above the Atlantic Ocean. "To me, the castles are a tie that binds us to Africa."

Garcia-Barrio and many other American blacks who visit Ghana feel a fierce proprietary over the castle at Elmina and another one in nearby Cape Coast. They don't want slavery to be forgotten, its roots buried in a country where the hushed-up practice of virgin slavery still exists in some religious communities.

"I do feel a sense of ownership," said Garcia-Barrio, an associate professor of Spanish at West Chester University in Philadelphia. But the restoration, financed in part by 10 million from the U.S. government's Agency for International Development, is under debate. Some black Americans say the forts and their horrors are being sanitized by well-meaning conservationists who are turning the castles into tourist attractions that diminish the evils of bondage.

They complain about the removal of shackles and branding irons from dungeon walls and about the gift shops selling postcards and tacky trinkets alongside traditional African cloth and art.

"I am offended by the 'touristifying' of the castles," said Dr. Nelson Keih, a Jamaican-born sociology professor at West Chester and founder of its Institute for International Development, which is organizing a student and faculty exchange program with the University of Ghana.

Garcia-Barrio accepts there is a need for restoration work.

"But it should be done in a way that respects the history and doesn't mask the horror of what happened," she said. "For instance, they're putting a gift shop in what was once a male dungeon."

Some 10 million Africans were sold into slavery between the 1500 and 1800s, battered by their own tribal kings and chiefs to European traders for such novelties as gunpowder, alcohol and mirrors. Many were held in castle dungeons along the West African coast before being marched out to slave ships that sailed for the Americas and Europe.

The castles were built by the Portuguese and Swedes as seaside trading forts and later also were used by Dutch and British colonialists. They have been named World Heritage Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Elmina is the oldest surviving European structure south of the equator, and it is believed that Christopher Columbus stopped here before venturing in the "New World."

Proponents of the restoration argue that the gift shops, along with a museum, attract the tourists whose dollars pay for the castles' preservation and bring revenue into Ghana.

"One reality is, no matter what you do, you just can't please all the people," said Myron Golden, an American black who is USAID director in Ghana.

To help counter some of the criticism, an 18-member board of black Americans and Ghanaians has been set up to oversee the restorations and the placement of exhibits and gift shops.

"As we are able to attract more money for the castles and more interest, I suspect that a wider variety of views can be accommodated," said Golden. "This controversy means that at least we have accomplished some-

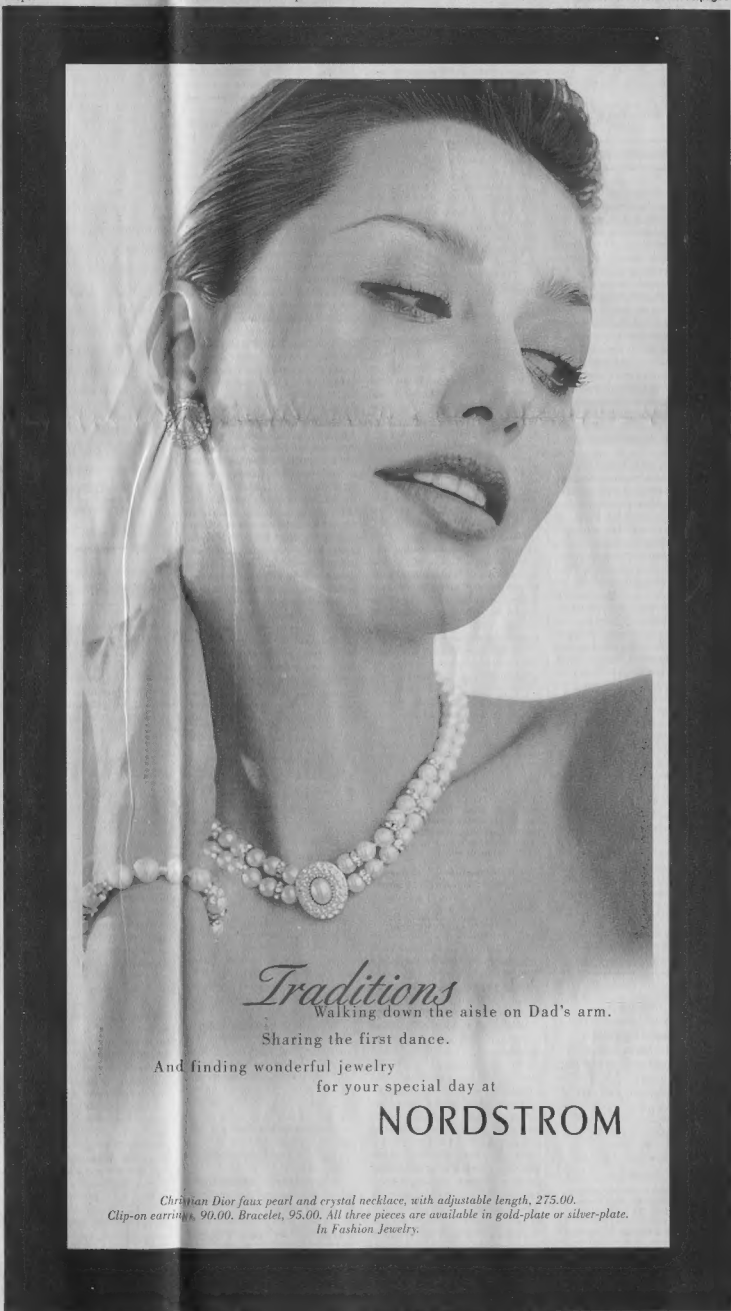
thing. Ten years ago these were just decaying castles in the sand."

Many Ghanaian and American tourists at the castles on a recent afternoon didn't understand the fuss and found the castles effective, de-

spite the touching-up.

"Those things happened in the old days," said Marian Acquaye, a 29-year-old Ghanaian seamstress who suffered a half-dozen nieces and nephews.

see RESTORATION BRINGS PAGE 5



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EDITORIAL

Black Wall Street and the Red Book show 1900's lifestyle to model

For the last two weeks, City News has run feature articles on the early lifestyles of African Americans. It is fascinating to see how our early ancestors managed to survive and prosper during a time when it seemed that everything was against them. They were pioneers who were determined to participate in the American Dream, although their experiences were only a few years removed from slavery.

There is a reason why, as black people, we have an overwhelming interest in stories like Black Wallstreet and Life in Houston.

Both stories and others like them show that black people in this country know more than slave huts and decaying urban ghettos. It shows how with absolutely nothing, black people have been able to achieve great things when they decide to do it.

Most importantly, black people must follow the same principles today. White folk didn't give blacks in Oklahoma or Houston or the other prosperous black communities of the early 1900's, the wealth or material items they possessed. They worked hard overcame horrendous obstacles and persevered to acquire their goals.

During this month of reflection, we need to think about all the opportunities we have to make our community better and what we need to motivate ourselves to reach the levels that our ancestors did. As one writer wrote, "In 1910, our forefathers and mothers owned 13 million acres of land at the height of racism in this country...[these] prove to the naysayers and revisionists that we had our act together. Our mandate now is to begin to teach our children about our own, ongoing black Holocaust. They have to know when they look at our communities today that we don't come from this."

This Way for Black Empowerment

The August Wilson Drama

By Dr. Lenora Fulani

August Wilson is the most successful African American playwright of all times. He is well on his way toward his goal of writing a play about African American history at the end of the twentieth century. His works debut at major Broadway theaters and over the last decade he has been honored repeatedly with Pulitzer, Drama Desk, and Tony awards.

Wilson's first Broadway hit, and probably still his best known work, is *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, which premiered in 1985. The following year he won America's most prestigious literary honor, the Pulitzer Prize, for *Joe Turner's Case and Gone*. He was awarded the Pulitzer again in 1990 for *Fences*, which starred James Earl Jones on Broadway. His most recent play is *Seven Guitars*.

Ironically, while Wilson has been honored by the white-dominated theater establishment and is respected by the primarily white Broadway theater audience, he is much less known by ordinary Black folks. Most of us don't go to see his plays. It's not surprising that Wilson would depend on mainly white producers to put on his plays and mainly white audiences to buy the tickets. They don't call Broadway the "Great White Way" for nothing. In spite of—or perhaps, because of—this situation, Wilson recently has begun to advocate for a separatist approach to Black theatricals, claiming that white people cannot write roles of Blacks, attacking "color blind casting," that is the casting of Blacks and other people of color in roles, for example those written by Shakespeare, that were not originally written for them. Wilson called for a fully separatist and exclusive Black professional theater.

He first made these separatist views public in a keynote address delivered to the biennial national conference of the Theatre Communications Group, whose members are representatives of non-profit professional theaters around the country, where he asked that white-controlled government organizations, corporations and foundations which now fund white and

multicultural non-profit theaters around the country bankroll separatist Black theaters.

Not surprisingly, Wilson's views have found little support among working Black actors, dramatists and directors. They need to work in existing theaters to make a living and want the opportunity to perform more roles, not less.

The theatre establishment—very white and very liberal—was also stunned. Wilson found his most ardent opponent in Robert Brustein, former head of the Yale Drama School, artistic director of the American Repertory Theatre in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and drama critic for *The New Republic*. Their debate has been the debate between two political/cultural positions which have both failed the African American community—liberalism and cultural nationalism.

Wilson and Brustein held a public debate last month before an overflow crowd of theatre artists at a Broadway theater. Brustein insisted that "things have changed" over 300 years and particularly the last 30 for Black people. Wilson took on this classically liberal and condescending view. Brustein challenged Wilson to put his plays where his mouth is by premiering his next drama at an African American theatre. Wilson replied, "I myself am personally a separatist and I am not interested in starting a theatre." His response was greeted with boos.

What I find most disturbing about this cultural debate is the extent to which the Black community has been left out. How the Black community can develop a sophisticated and popular theatre reflective of its history and culture and relevant to the current cultural, economic, political and social circumstances of our country is a serious question. We would hope that August Wilson, who claims to represent African American culture in the theatre world, would bring the African American community into the dialogue. So far, he hasn't.

If Wilson is serious about creating a viable, new Black theatre, why isn't he talking to us? Why was his debate with Brustein held at a Times Square theatre instead of the Apollo in Harlem? Black "nationalists" and "separatists" who speak (and present their plays) to whites have, in my opinion, little credibility as leaders of their people. I urge Mr. Wilson, who is one of America's greatest playwrights, to speak to African American people. I would be very happy to provide Wilson with opportunities to present his position and have a dialogue with the Black community.

Cultural nationalism is a legitimate—although in my opinion, misguided and ultimately hypocritical—response to the racism of American society. While I disagree with Wilson's separatism (especially a separatism funded by white-dominated institutions), I think that it is important that the Black community be a place to dialogue in an informed and intelligent way on all the cultural and political options open to us.

Dr. Lenora B. Fulani twice ran for President of the U.S. as an independent, making history in 1988 when she became the first woman and African American to get on the ballot in all fifty states.

Children are learners: not labels

by Charles L. Singleton, Ed.D.

It is ironic that in today's American society, where many more minority children are now attending public schools, school districts continue the irresponsible practice of labeling students with inappropriate names (e.g., slow learners, "attention-deficit-disordered," "D" students, chronically challenged pupils, behaviorally deficient youngsters, difficult learners, hyperactive children, dysfunctional learners, standardized test failures, at risk children...). Needless to say, such stereotyped short phrases are used to describe school age children, are both counterproductive and inhumane to learning.

Readers and ardent supporters of

children must stop this revolving door of educational mediocrity, with regard to labeling children and their ability to learn. The indifference, coupled with the potential psychological damage done to children by so-called educators, pseudo-intellectuals and burdensome parents or guardians might forever prevent these children from successfully entering the shopping mall of learning and its multiple aspects of knowledge. Therefore, we adults must make a conscientious effort to stop calling children incorrigible names which could leave indelible, life-long scars on the blossoming self-esteem.

It can be argued that the solution to this misperception of labeling school aged children must involve the retraining of classroom teachers, specialists, school administrators, as well as cur-

riculum developers. Such retraining programs would include the science of pedagogy (methods of teaching). Parents and guardians would also need to spend more "quality time" with the children.

Children are learners...not labels. Just think...Albert Einstein, the German-American physicist, was labeled a poor student; and his school performance was evoked as sub-standard. If Albert Einstein were a student in one of our public schools today, he would surely be labeled a slow learner or "attention-deficit-disordered" or any number of the so-called learning disorders of today. Most likely, Einstein would also face a process of endless referrals amidst the educational practitioners.

Children are learners...period.

Americans' vision for the 21st Century



by Sharon Khadijah Vincent

As Wall Street continues to break its own records, some of the hottest stocks continue to be prison stocks. This trend should tell you a lot about America's vision for the 21st century. Companies such as Corrections Corporation of America and Wackenhut Corrections Corporation have seen up to a 97% increase in profits in just one year. Both of these companies build and run prisons.

These companies are just two examples of firms that have dramatically increased their profits over the past few years by providing a service that is in high demand—constructing and managing private adult correction and maximum security facilities. Estimates are that private adult corrections have become a \$550 million industry that will exceed \$1 billion in annual revenues by the year 2000. This trend may be good for Wall Street, but it is not good for us. We should be concerned and alarmed about what this picture of a "investment portfolio" looks like for the African American community.

At a time when we have overcrowded public schools, school buildings in need of repairs and improvements in order to accommodate new and increased demands for extra wiring for computers and other equipment needed for instruction, the reluctance to provide additional funds and support for these efforts. We have a shortage in affordable public housing and more and more families are being left homeless. For too many of our young people continue to indulge themselves in behaviors and lifestyles that make them very susceptible to various diseases and unplanned pregnancies that negatively impact not only their life, but the lives of their families and friends.

Many of our young men and women are engaged in activities that are causing them to be involved with criminal elements that are working to destroy them and their future. Statistics highlight that the prisons and jails are dis-

proportionately filled with Black men and women—and their ages keep getting younger and younger each year. Therefore we can safely predict that if this trend keeps going, the new prisons being planned and built will be predominantly populated by our youth.

If individuals and corporations can put their capital in companies that in fact, prison, why can't they make similar investments in those areas of our infrastructure that help build up our society and people? Can't those same companies that design and build maximum security facilities, assist with the de-

A lot of people earn their money on the "legal" side of this industry as well as the "illegal" side. Contractors, architects, construction workers, prison officials, guards, lawyers, police, judges, clerks, secretaries and many other support personnel, all earn their living from the work and services they provide in the operation and maintenance of the criminal justice system. This is big business, getting bigger all the time.

sign and development of new educational facilities that meet the needs of students preparing to work and survive in the 21st century? At a time when we need more day care facilities, affordable housing, recreational centers, etc., to meet the needs of families and children, why are programs and

services being cut as opposed to expanded to meet these demands? Since it has been proven that in the long run it's cheaper to educate individuals than to incarcerate them, why is the emphasis on building more prisons as opposed to schools?

Unfortunately, crime does pay. In fact, crime is considered as a true "growth industry." A lot of people earn their money on the "legal" side of this industry as well as the "illegal" side. Contractors, architects, construction workers, prison officials, guards, lawyers, police, judges, clerks, secretaries and many other support personnel all earn their living from the work and services they provide in the operation and maintenance of the criminal justice system. This is big business, getting bigger all the time. While a number of people may espouse their anti-crime rhetoric, and whip the masses up into a frenzy, the truth is, if we are ever successful in helping to deter our young people away from the destructive criminal lifestyle that has destroyed far too many of our youth, a great deal of people would be out of work! The individuals who really control the means of production know this as well.

It's because of this reality that we must become more adept and smarter in not only how we deal with solutions to the crime problem that exists in our society, but also with those forces who are really working against us because they don't want the forces to suffer. Their solution to handling crime isn't necessarily in the best interest of our community. While they privatized necessarily in the best interest of our community. While they sell or privatized prisons and private prison management as the answers, we must increase our advocacy for offering people viable chances and opportunities to receive quality education, vocational and technical skills, employability skills training and jobs, as solutions to decreasing crime in our society.

Can providing people with hope sell or is punishment more a viable option for investors as we head toward the dawn of a new millennium?

Watt's wrong with this picture

Reprinted from Jax Fax A Newsletter from the Rainbow Coalition

J.C. Watts has a unique place in American politics—the former Obama quaterback makes up the entire GOP Black Caucus in the U.S. Congress.

Though Watts is an African American minister, his rhetoric is generally indistinguishable from the Southern leaders of the Republican right wing with constant references to God family hard work tax relief and character.

Recently, Congressman Watts showcased that rhetoric when he was chosen by the Republican Party to respond to President Clinton's State of the Union Address on national TV. He was eloquent, his stories were touching, and he peppered his speech with all the right buzz phrases.

Unfortunately for the Congressman, he had earlier let his tongue out-run his brain to a Washington Post column in which he had found himself in the papers insulting Reverend Jackson and other African American leaders:

"And though he says he 'would rather speak to people's intelligence than to their fear,' he finds it hard at the end of a long day in his district to mask his contempt for 'race-hustling poverty pimps like Jesse Jackson and Marion Barry, whose careers, he says, depend on keeping Black people dependent on government.'"

Uh-oh. Let's leave aside the revealing contrast between the civil rights leader Jesse Jackson, who marched side-by-side with Dr. King in Selma to win just what he wanted for African Americans, so that a certain ungrateful Sooner football player could later get elected to Congress. Let's ignore Cong. Watts lightning-fast association of the marks of a Republican Party starved for people of color to highlight all their conventions. Let's even ignore the mean-spirited rhetoric, since everyone slips up now and then.

Instead, let's measure Cong. Watts character by his response to his mistake. When he was challenged on his remarks by his colleague, Cong. Jackson, Jr., who called it "an unbecomingly ignorant and insensitive statement about my father," did J.C. Watts step up to the plate and acknowledge his error? Did he apologize? Did he show his true character by taking responsibility for his meanness? He did not. He sent Cong. Jackson, Jr. a letter in which he argued that the offensive language was "not in reference to Rev. Jackson or Marion Barry," a statement which the Post reporter has challenged. And not only did he make no apology, he tried to chastise Cong. Jackson, Jr. for sensationalizing this unfortunate misunderstanding (after Watts' insults had already appeared in the Washington Post story). Oops. Apparently character only comes for the and power-less.

Unity in the Community

by Kai Altha Nyirou

In the word "community" there is "unity." In the word "unity" there is "we." We should unite to help in the struggle to uplift the community in which we live. We know that many problems exist in our community. My question to you is, What are you doing to be a part of the solution to some of these problems? If you are not working to help solve some of the problems then you are a part of the problem. You inactivate make you a part of the problem.

We must exercise the Kwanzaa principle of "Umoja" (Unity). We complain about other people who unite and set up businesses in our community. I respect those who have the knowledge, wisdom and understanding in effort to build for themselves. We only need to get business-minded and unite to do likewise. We should think in terms of leaving a foundation for our children to add on to.

There are many Churches, corporations and organizations in our communities that have events, etc. We should attend as many of these events as possible to show unity in the community. We must learn to network with one another. Gather knowledge and information and take it home to pass it on to our family and friends. We should also support the Black busi-

nesses in our community. We should also subscribe to (in support of) our Black-owned newspapers in our community. Unity in the community must be manifested in our ways and actions.

We need to join an organization (a constructive and productive one of course) as suggested by Bro. Harbison and we need to join it to promote unity in the community. Each of us have talents and skills (known and unknown) that can be used to add to our growth and development as a people. Use it or lose it.

The time is ripe that we unite and work "to reclaim the fallen."

As Marcus Garvey teaches in *Message to the People*, "Whenever a member of your race is down; pick him up. Whenever he wants genuine help and you can help him, do so. Never leave him stranded and friendless. If you cannot help him yourself send him to someone of the race who can help him. Put an arm of protection around him and keep him from going wrong and feeling absolutely friendless...Let it be your highest purpose in life to assist the needy members of your race. Use all your influence in your country, state and town to help the needy elements of your race. Seek government help for them. Seek philanthropic help for them. Seek help anywhere you can find it so that they may improve their condition."

These teachings are good for us and I hope and pray that you decide to work to promote unity in our community. It's all good, Peace.

We want to hear from you

Send us your letter's, commentary, opinions to:

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STATE COLLEGE RECEIVES \$100,000 GRANT

Thomas Edison State College here received a grant of \$100,000 from The Fund for New Jersey in renewed support for the John S. Watson Institute for Public Policy, a nonpartisan, independently funded research office, whose mission is to provide policy analysis and other technical assistance to decision makers in the public and private sector.

"The Fund for New Jersey's grant recognizes our commitment to collaborative community development," said Dr. George A. Pruitt, president of the college. "Their support has been vital to the College's leadership in this area."

The Watson Institute focuses on building the capacity of local governments, businesses, and nonprofit organizations, associations, and community groups throughout the state to make sound policy decisions, and to plan and implement sound solutions to community problems. The Fund for New Jersey is a not-for-profit private foundation which distributes grants to organizations dealing with current problems facing New Jersey in order to promote social improvement within the state.

JUDGE ORDERS TEXAS COMPANY TO STOP SLAMMING

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J.—A Middlesex County superior court judge has ordered a Texas telecommunications company to stop "slamming" New Jersey consumers by switching them from their existing phone companies to the Texas company without their knowledge. The order was issued at a recent hearing following a suit filed against Hearline Communications, Inc. of Houston by the Division of Consumer Affairs, the Board of Public Utilities, and the Middlesex County Consumer Affairs Office. The state alleged that Hearline violated the Consumer Fraud Act when soliciting new accounts in New Jersey by signing Letters of Agency in the names of consumers without their knowledge and switching consumers' long distance carrier without their knowledge. The suit sought approximately 200 complaints from New Jersey consumers either to the state or the FCC.

"This is a victory for consumers," said Attorney Gerties. "We're not saying anything about the company. There is nothing intrinsically wrong with reselling access, but it is not proper to switch consumers' phone companies without their permission."

BRIEFINGS SET FOR SCHOOL BOARD CANDIDATES

TRENTON, N.J.—New Jersey's county school boards associations will sponsor briefing sessions for local school board candidates during March. Coordinated by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the four regional programs will address the structure and responsibilities of local school boards in New Jersey.

Participants will receive information on policy-making, school administration, school finance and budgeting, school-community relations, collective bargaining, and relations among the board, superintendent and staff.

DEVILS SET DATE FOR FINAL SCHOOL NIGHT

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.—The New Jersey Devils 1996-97 School Program, now in its third season, concludes on Monday, March 17 at 7:30 p.m. The Devils will host a face-off against division rivals the Florida Panthers at 7:35 p.m. School groups throughout New Jersey, ranging in size from 10 to 500 or more, can participate in the final game of the 1996-97 School Night Programs.

For more information, please call the Devils Group Sales.

Stanley: Stagnant state aid takes toll on Irvington

TRENTON, N.J.—Assemblyman Craig A. Stanley attributed the Whittman administration's stagnant municipal aid policies in part to a shortfall in Irvington's budget that could trigger crippling property tax hikes of \$550 for the average family.

"The news for Irvington property taxpayers is going from bad to worse,"

said Stanley (D-Irvington). "The faltering of municipal aid coupled with the Whittman administration's record of indifference toward municipal issues means further pain and aggravation for the city's property taxpayers."

"The state is virtually making it impossible to bring the budget in without a crippling tax increase or without

a reduction in services," said Stanley. The state is literally holding the city's property taxpayers hostage—and it's all going to be repeated with the shortfall in education funding."

Stanley said he would seek a meeting with state Treasurer Brian Crympe to seek supplemental aid so the state

could help to relieve the potential impact of a budget shortfall.

"The administration has claimed that the new state budget would 'hold harmless' the aid allocations that towns rely on to offset tax increases," said Stanley. "We want these 'hold harmless' claims put in practice in Irvington."

United Way 'Celebrity Read' program salutes African American history month

NEWARK, N.J.—Throughout the month of February, United Way of Essex and West Hudson will host its sixth annual "Celebrity Read" program in honor of African American

History Month. "Celebrity Read" consists of volunteer readers who take time out of their day to visit elementary schools in Irvington, East Orange, Orange, and Newark. "Celebrity Read" is

designed to inspire the community's youth with information about important contributions to American and world's history made by people of color.

Maria Vazquez-DeSoto, president and CEO of United Way, affirmed, "Celebrity Read provides young people with real-life role models who are willing to share their life experiences, and in the process, instill a sense of pride and hope for the tremendous potential the exists when people work together as a community."

Gail Moore, Vice President of Marketing and Resource Development and the creator of the "Celebrity Read" program, points out that, "Celebrity Readers" are recruited from a professional pool of volunteers from both the public and private sectors including business, government, higher education, the arts, religious organizations, professional associations, and the sciences to raise awareness of the achievements of African Americans.

See UNITED WAY page 10

Dialog between administrators and parents sought

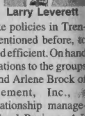
PLAINFIELD, N.J.—Superintendent of Schools Larry Leverett welcomed parents to a meeting in which they were asked for their suggestions to improve the schools. Community involvement is especially sought with the shortfall in finances the school system has experienced.

"One of the bright spots of having served as your superintendent over the past year and a half has been the tremendous commitment that this community has made to improving this school district's effectiveness in many ways," Dr. Leverett told the group. "We are going to ask you to continue that involvement in helping us to be not only more effective, but, as the situation requires, more efficient."

Dr. Leverett took time out to recognize Jo Ann Brown, Karen Gore, Roylisa Mathis, and Marianne Font, four school employees responsible for saving the district millions of dollars. When a lunch program enrollment audit was conducted, Plainfield was told they owed \$2.4 million to the state. The four women found documentation showing 500 students not in the original account the state found Plainfield liable for. "Their efforts are likely to result in the district being able to retain \$1.5 million over the three-year period," Leverett said as he awarded the two women present, Gore and Mathis, Certificates of Appreciation. He called them models as how the rest of the community can contribute.

Dr. Leverett spelled out three main

goals for all of them to work on, student achievement, which he termed as currently "unacceptably low," certification, which would mean the city schools will as Dr. Leverett said "belong to the public of Plainfield, and not Larry Leverett



to people who make policies in Trenton, and, as he mentioned before, to be more effective and efficient. On hand to make recommendations to the group was Eric Collins, and Arlene Brock of Conflict Management, Inc., a negotiation and relationship management firm, and School Business Administrator Gary Ottman.

"The Superintendent and the school board want to make sure that the community has input into their issues, into education generally, and right now there are particularly hard decisions that need to be made as a result of the budget shortfall," Arlene Brock said. "They wanted to involve the community in a real productive (forum) of giving input."

Parents were very receptive in this meeting and gave many suggestions to raise money, from selling concession and advertisement space, to raising the tax base. Charles McCray of the Cedar Brook PTA was very pleased. "It is good to see good people from the community trying to work head-on with this issue," he said.

Restoration brings debate

Continued from page 3
ews to visit Cape Coast. "I think we should forget all that and be together, united as friends."

Mark Heffernan, who is from Georgia, where many slaves worked on cotton plantations, walked out feeling spooked.

"There's a lot of ghosts still living in this place," said Heffernan. "But I'm glad that I've seen it. Humanity should learn from its mistakes."

For Victor Awud, a 22-year-old Ghanaian business student, the visit was a reminder of what his country might be today if the strong healthy men and women seized by slave-traders had stayed in Africa.

"If they had stayed here, maybe they would have made us great," he said.

"We tend to blame the colonial masters. We don't blame ourselves." But on further thought, Awud added, "Well, our ancestors really shouldn't have sold human beings for gunpowder and drink."

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BUSINESS
CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

NORTH BRANCH—Program, "Are You an Entrepreneur?" at Raritan Valley Community College. For more information, call 908-560-9607.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

BRIDGEWATER—A presentation, "The Do's and Don'ts in the Hiring/Firing Process," sponsored by the Human Resources Committee, will be a part of a Small Business Council Breakfast at Jack O'Connor's Quality Beef & Seafood Restaurant, 7:45-9:30 a.m. For more information, call (908)725-1552.

TUESDAY, MARCH 4

SOMERSET—Business Card Exchange 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Somerset Ramada. For more information, call (908)725-1552.

MARCH 19-12

SEACAUUS—Conference, "MOBE," The tenth annual symposium sponsored by the MOBE (Marketing Opportunities in Black Entertainment) Institute. At the Sheraton Meadowlands. For more information, call 219-936-1888.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

WESTFIELD—Workshop, "How to Realize your Retirement Dreams," 7-11 p.m. at the YMCA, Clark St. For more information, call Renee Golscher/Steve Telebit, 1-900-347-5018.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

SCOTCH PLAINS—Workshop, "How to Realize your Retirement Dreams," 7-11 p.m. at the Scotch Plains Library, Bartle Ave. For more information, call Renee Golscher/Steve Telebit, 1-900-347-5018.

MARCH 19, 5, APRIL 2, 16

WAYNE—An International Festival Film Festival featuring film showings and a workshop will be held at the William Paterson College. Admission free. For more information, call (201)595-2157 Wednesday, MARCH 26.

FAIRFIELD—Seminar, Leadership Development Course for Managers," Boca Western Executive Inn. For more information, call 1-800-255-4141.

By Jereme L. Johnson

Anthony Brown never wanted to have a flower shop. That's why he doesn't have one. According to Brown, the opening of his new flower store, "Visions is a design studio."

With corporate clientele such as the Somerset Marriott Hotel, Gucci in Short Hills and AT&T, Brown has made a name for himself in the floral design industry.

"Visions," located in Scotch Plains, features a natural design. Decorated with hand-painted walls, with a faux-tile look and ornamented with bamboo-framed pictures of

Brown's floral creations, the Visions store is a work of art.

Brown has studied under Manhattan's more prominent floral decorating firms such as Philip Baloun Designs and Anthony Ferraz.

Brown has also studied at the auction house is Aalsmeer, Holland and worked at the Park Lane Hotel located in London, England.

According to Brown, his freelance design work has enabled him to pick up on "different styles."

According to Brown, Mother's Day, coming up on May 11, is the next biggest flower buying holiday next to Valentine's Day.

An influence of Eastern and Euro-

pean style is evident in Anthony Brown's Floral Creations.

So, how does a guy get into flowers? Brown, a Scotch Plains native, notes that colors drew him to flowers, while his artistic ability stemmed from his high school days.

Visions also specializes in weddings, private parties, corporate events, galas and all holiday needs.

Brown's wife, Corinne and sister, Teresa currently work in the studio.

After a world-wide tour, Brown is bringing his expertise back to Central New Jersey with the opening of "Visions" floral design studio.

Visions can also be reached on the Internet at: Visions@aol.com.



Anthony Brown owner of Visions

POLL: Black and white investors differ sharply

African-Americans want higher returns but less risk

NEW YORK—Black investors want top returns but are often less willing than whites to take the investment risks necessary to make more money, according to a new poll released exclusively to Money magazine.

Money magazine reports that Americans' decisions about how to invest their money are as different as black and white, due largely to different levels of investing experience as well as varying life experiences.

In its March issue, Money publishes the results of an exclusive survey of African American and non-African American investors commissioned by Chicago-based Mutual Funds. Conducted in November and December by pollster Roper Starch Worldwide, the study surveyed 974 adults nationwide (50% African American, 50% non-African American) about their investing habits. Margin of error margin: plus or minus 4 per-

centage points.

Key study findings:

African Americans aim for higher returns than whites on average, but their investment choices fall short. Blacks said they seek an average 14.7% annual return, more than three points higher than the 11.2% anticipated by non-African Americans. But African Americans are less likely to buy mutual funds, which are most likely to achieve such returns.

Black women are much more likely to act as financial shrews in their households. Women are the primary financial decision makers for 21% of African-American married couples, while whites play that role for just 10% of white couples.

African Americans are more likely than whites to rely on financial advisers and less likely to listen to friends or family members. A full 54% of blacks said that they would rely on a financial adviser or planner when making sav-

ings and investment decisions (vs. 46% of whites). By contrast, 31% are inclined to ask friends or family for money advice, compared with 39% of whites.

Money offers advice to help African Americans increase their wealth—their median net worth (\$4,418) remains a mere fraction of whites' (\$45,740)—and approach the high returns they anticipate. Among the tips:

• Boost your ownership in stock and stock funds. Start by investing through your employer's professionally managed 401(k) or 403(b) retirement savings plan.

• If you want to hire a financial planner, choose one who understands your needs and financial temperament. For referrals, call a trade group like the International Association for Financial Planning (800-945-4237) or the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors (800-366-2732).

Successful entrepreneur's
constant companion:
The right mindset

by Michael Grant, J.D. Special to the NNPA

Dr. Wayne Dyer wrote a motivational book and entitled it: "You'll See It When You Believe It." In his title he captured the essence of success. Contrary to conventional wisdom, believing does precede "seeing." But one's beliefs are rooted in one's past conditioning.

Learning to undo the mental conditioning of over 350 years of inferior thinking is the greatest challenge of all African Americans, but especially those risk-takers called entrepreneurs.

Those who would set sail on the tempestuous sea of a highly competitive business world must be guided by a certain mindset.

The challenge for those African

Americans who would aspire to the heights of a Reginald Lewis or even to successfully operate smaller enterprises, begins with an understanding of the multidimensional human mind and how to reprogram it.

Our first mental challenge is to overcome centuries of belief that we are inferior indeed, that those who look like ourselves cannot be trusted, and that we cannot by our own efforts produce quality goods and deliver exceptional customer service.

Ethnic pride has served as the catalyst and the cement for millions of successful business ventures in this country. Tragically, many African-Americans have had to struggle with a towering self-hatred that unconsciously was projected onto our kinsmen. By conscious choice, we must begin to reprogram our minds so that ethnic pride can serve us as it has served others. Mentally healthy attitudes about self will cause a reconstruction of our attitudes about others who look like ourselves.

When the African-American community has exorcised the demons of distrust, envy and an overall low collective esteem, we will not only choose to be more self-reliant by building supported business enterprises, we will, with self-actualizing spirits, more eagerly enter the stream of giving as well as receiving. Each of us will more willingly celebrate—rather than envy—each other's success.

After forthrightly acknowledging that historical racism may have shaken the self-confidence or undermined the belief in self so abundantly needed for risk-taking, African-American entrepreneurs are still called to take control of their own destinies; to be responsible for constructing viable plans (with contingencies) for business success, and finally, to be held accountable for high standards of excellence. One great mind once wrote: "No one will ask how tempestuous was the storm at sea. The only question that will be asked is: did you bring the ship into port?"

So after acknowledging the need for a mental reprogramming to eradicate negative images of self, thereby beginning the process of constructing the right mindset for business, what else must aspiring African-American entrepreneurs do? At minimum, I would suggest the following:

- Discover your purpose. Choose work that excites you. Diligently study the marketplace before entering it.
- Remember that you can have whatever you want if you'll help others get what they want.
- Have a clear picture in your mind about what it is that you desire to accomplish. Begin with the end goal in mind.

- You must desire success with a burning passion.
- Study models of success in your field. If possible, get to know them.
- Always maintain the highest standards of excellence.

- Be flexible. Be resilient. Accept failure as temporary and as necessary. Without a willingness to fail, success is impossible.

- Maintain a positive mental attitude. Listen to your thoughts. You are not your thoughts. Your thoughts are not reality; therefore any thought that does not take you closer to the realization of your goals, discard it immediately.

- Set long-range and short-range goals. Write them down!
- Finally, remind yourself that you are a child of God. Abundance is your birthright. Faith will help you to persist. And persistence will get you anywhere you want to go.

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The Ditch Digger's Daughters on The Family Channel

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THROUGH MARCH 23
TRENTON—Photography by Jersey City resident Laura Stockwell on view at New Jersey State Museum, 205 West State Street. For more information, call 609-292-6464.
THROUGH MARCH 29
NEW YORK—Exhibit, "Robert Motherwell on Paper: Gesture, Variation, Continuity," at Columbia University's Wallace Art Gallery, Broadway and 116th St. For information, call 212-854-7288.
THROUGH MARCH 30
WAYNE—Exhibit of works by artist Zhiyuan Cong. At William Patterson College. For more information, call 201-255-1246.
THROUGH MAY 17
NORTH BRANCH—Laser concerts, "Laser Light Show," Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band, and "East of Pink Floyd," can be seen at the Planetarium at Raritan Valley Community College, College Ave. and Lanning Rd. For more information, call 908-291-8505.

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA—Hewes a black ditch-digger. His wife was a cleaning woman. It was 1950s America and Donald Thornton set his heart on the notion that his six daughters would grow up to become doctors. "The Ditchdigger's Daughters," an American success story, airs on The Family Channel on Sunday, Feb. 23 from 7 to 9 p.m. ET/PT during Black History Month. This original movie was inspired by the critically acclaimed novel by Dr. Yvonne Thornton as told to Jo Couderc.

The film stars Carl Lumbly ("South Central," "M.A.N.T.I.S."), Monica Calhoun ("Sister Act 2"), Rosalyn Coleman ("The Piano Lesson"), Victoria Dillard ("Spin City"), Kimberly Elise ("Set It Off"), Erka Brand ("The Women of Brewster Place"), Dale Hill ("Bring in 'Da Noise, Bring in 'Da Funk"), Shelley Robertson ("Infidelity"), Denise J. Sealy ("The American Dream: The Jackson's Ministeries") and Lynne Moody ("Chicago Hope," "Knott's Landing").

For 35 years, Donald (Lumbly) worked several jobs and 16-hour days, sometimes traveling between New



The Cast of The Ditch Digger's Daughter

York and New Jersey. As strict but loving parents, Donald and his wife Tase (Dillard) refused to allow society to hinder dreams of a better future for their six daughters. Moving the family from Harlem to Long Branch, NJ,

good, but A's were better.

To teach discipline and to keep the girls out of trouble, Donald had each of his girls learn to play an instrument. They formed a band and performed at colleges and universities, as well as appearing on "Tad Mack and the Original Amateur Hour" and at the Apollo Theatre in Harlem. Fame, however, was not the ultimate goal. The money they earned went to their college funds.

Donald wanted his daughters to have guaranteed respect. Aware of an old saying that black girls grew up to be the three "M's"—Mammies, Maids and Mommas, Donald envisioned his daughters as doctors. A true rags-to-riches story, "The Ditchdigger's Daughters" is a testament to a father's love and persistence, and the strength of his daughters who overcame poverty, racism and sexism to become accomplished professionals.

The Thornton girls learned the values of family, education and perseverance. Author Dr. Yvonne Thornton is the middle daughter and an OB/GYN. Dr. Jeannette

Thornton is a psychiatrist in private practice. Dr. Linda Thornton is a dentist. Rita Thornton is a lawyer. Donna Thornton became a homemaker and court stenographer; she died of lupus in 1993. Betty, a foster child, is a licensed practical nurse in geriatrics. Today, each daughter uses her maiden name in honor of their father and the dreams he had for them.

James Manos, Jr. ("Apollo 11," "The Positively True Adventures of the Alleged Texas Cheerleader-Murdering Mom") is executive producer, and Paris Qualles ("Tuskegee Army," "The Inkwell") is executive producer and writer. Lulu Zeza ("Apollo 11," "Tuskegee Army") is the line producer and Johnny Jensen ("The Cape") is the director. Allan Holzman ("Survivors of the Holocaust") is the editor.

"The Ditchdigger's Daughters" is produced by James Manos Productions, Four Papa Quebec Productions and Ditchdigger's Productions, Inc. in association with MTM Enterprises, Inc. "The Ditchdigger's Daughters" will air again on The Family Channel March 1 at 10 p.m. ET and March 17 at 8 p.m. ET.

Program reveals blurred racial lines of prominent families

BOSTON, Mass.—(ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY)—What do the Queen of England, actor Peter Ustinov, the Medici family, the Vanderbilts, and Melrose Place villain Heather Locklear have in common? All descend from black African royal lines.

In the midst of America's growing debate over racial classifications, the PBS documentary series FRONTLINE has mounted "Blurred Racial Lines," a Web-exclusive feature accessible at www.pbs.org/web/pages/frontline/shows/race/race.html.

This FRONTLINE ONLINE feature includes surprising revelations about the African ancestry of some powerful European dynasties and famous Americans.

Mario de Valdes y Cocom, an independent scholar in black history, spent years compiling much of the material published. Valdes, a Jesuit-educated Belgian of European, Mayan, and African ancestry, worked with genealogical records, archival material, and noted genealogical re-

searchers to assemble scholarly, yet entertaining, profiles of:

- Heather Locklear: Locklear's surname means "hold fast" in the language of the Tuscany tribes, and she seems to have descended from ancestry which is a mixture of European, Indian and African.
- Queen Elizabeth II: The current monarch is the great-great-great-granddaughter of Queen Charlotte, wife of George III, descendant of a black branch of the Portuguese Royal House.
- Peter Ustinov: On his father's side, Ustinov is a member of the old Russian nobility. On his mother's side, he is a member of the Ethiopian Royal Family.
- The Medici family: This noble family of Italy included Alessandro de Medici, who was born to a black serving woman and seventeen-year-old Cardinal Giulio de Medici, who later became Pope Clement VII. The greater majority of the noble houses of Italy

can today trace their ancestry back to Alessandro de Medici and so can a number of other princely families of Europe.

"Modern historical discussion has overlooked much of the African ancestry of prominent white families because of the negative image," says Valdes. "Nobody wants to hear about successful blacks as it spoils the historical image."

In addition, Valdes developed separately at this site "Secretum Sigillum," an iconographical study on the symbolism of the black image during the Middle Ages and, in particular, the positive symbol of the blackamoor in European coats of arms. "Secretum Sigillum" is threaded with pictures, illustrations and descriptions covering a range of black images and their sources from St. Maurice, the black patron saint of the Holy Roman Empire, to a look at blackness as an allusion to God, wisdom and the concept of justice, to the early 19th Century insignia designed by Pope Pius

VII, called the Moretto or, in English, the "Little Moor."

"Blurred Racial Lines" is located at the companion Web site to FRONTLINE's November 1996 broadcast "Secret Daughters," producer June Cross's intimate story of her own experience as a black daughter coming to terms with her white mother's decision to give her away when she became "too dark to pass for white."

FRONTLINE has seized an opportunity to expand its journalistic mission on the Web with this site," says FRONTLINE Senior Executive Producer David Fanning. "Mario Valdes has assembled, and continues to augment, a wealth of information on how history has hidden positive black imagery. Blurred Racial Lines is a unique archive of material that is of particular educational and scholarly value as we celebrate Black History Month."

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Martha Reeves Stars in AIN'T Misbehavin'

ENGLEWOOD, NJ—Martha Reeves and the Vandellas star in *Ain't Misbehavin'*, at the John Harms Theater and the Motown legend Martha Reeves and the Vandellas star in an all-new production of the Tony award winning musical *Ain't Misbehavin'* at the John Harms Theater, Sunday March 9 at 3 and 7 PM. With phenomenal music and glittering costumes designed by Bob Mackie, *Ain't Misbehavin'* brings to life the glamour, spirit and excitement of 1930's Harlem and the Golden Age of such places as the Cotton Club and the Savoy Ballroom. The revue glorifies the sounds of that era—swing and features over thirty unforgettable songs immortalized by the great Fats Waller, including *This Joint Is Jumpin'*, *Four Feet 'n' Too Big*, and of course, *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

Martha Reeves began her career as a blues singer under the name Martha La Valle, and was discovered in a Detroit nightclub. A demo tape caught the attention of producer Berry Gordy, who gave her and her backup singers the name **Martha Reeves & The Vandellas**. Their 1963 recording *Come Get These Memories* is often referred to as the beginning of "the Motown Sound." In 1964, Martha Reeves & The Vandellas recorded

the number one hit song, *Dancing in the Street*, written by Marvin Gaye, Mickey Stevenson and Ivy Hunter. A string of Top Ten hits followed, including *Heat Wave*, *No Where To Run* and *Jinny Mack*, among others. In 1995, Martha Reeves was inducted into the Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame. For more information call 201-567-3600.



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Life is about learning and recognizing our blessings

By Junious Ricardo Stanton

Writer Tonya Bolden once said, "you can handle life better if you make it a policy to learn from your mistakes and keep a record of your blessings." This is a profoundly useful statement. Surely all of us want to be able to handle life better, to get what we want out of life, be able to weather its storms and rough spots and be able to roll with its punches. Life can be as exhilarating and exhilarating with all its ups and downs. All of us will experience disappointment, setbacks as well as success and great elation. Handling life means living it on our own terms as much as possible, being in the divine flow, being

on task and on purpose. The key to handling life and living an effective and purposeful existence is taking a proactive approach rather than sitting around letting life happen to us.

This can be an arduous process because there is so much in life over which we have no control. Things happen without our input, consultation, prior planning or approval. That's just the way life is. Learning from our mistakes makes us wiser. Wisdom is more than mere knowledge. It is using knowledge aright, it is discerning right from wrong and acting accordingly. Who among us has not made any mistakes, or errors of omission and commission? How many of us have actually taken the time to learn from our mistakes and misuses? How many

of us examine our lives to look at where we are, how we got there and where we are going? Someone once said, "the unexamined life is not worth living." By examining our lives, looking at our mistakes, I believe we can get a better understanding of our blessings.

Blessings come in many guises. They don't always come in neat packages marked "blessing!" They are the miracles encoded in our mundane experiences. Many times what we perceive to be a disaster or major upheaval is actually a blessing, an opportunity to alter our lives for the better. As I have said on many occasions, "there is always a message in a mess, a lesson in a loss and an ordination in every ordeal; if we only take the time and make the effort to discover

them."

Life offers many opportunities to learn about ourselves and discover what we are made of. Life is a learning experience. Many times we learn more when things don't go according to our plans or the way we want than when things sail smoothly along. Problems are challenges and a force to use our inner resources and ingenuity to find ways to solve them. Along the way we will make many mistakes. Learning from our mistakes can be a painfully edifying experience. Look at your mistakes as lessons. Sift through the ashes of your failures. Instead of being embarrassed or ashamed, learn from them so the experience doesn't happen again. Pay attention to what's going on in your life, especially when you find yourself in a rut or slump. Look for the causal factors or the elements that have contributed to your predicament. Figure out how you got there and what it will take to turn your life around. Most importantly look at the situation

as a blessing or a door that will lead to new opportunities for personal growth and development.

In case you haven't noticed no one is perfect. Everyone makes mistakes and everyone fails at one thing or another. The biggest mistake you can make is not attempting anything out of fear of making a mistake. If you haven't made any mistakes lately, it means you are either dead or you haven't tried anything new. If you are dead, there is nothing I can offer you. If you're alive but you haven't tried anything new lately, get off your dander and start living. Do something new and different. Overcome your reluctance and that uncomfortable feeling and actually try doing a familiar task a different way. Take another route to work, read a different newspaper or listen to a different radio station. Shake up your life and escape from your normal routine. If you make a mistake, so what. Learn from it and find the blessing in the experience.

Tribute to Steve Jordan

Truly Plainfield's Finest

Funeral services will held February 13 for Steve Jordan, a former Plainfield police officer who was community leader and role model, died on home February 7 at the age of 50. The lifelong Plainfield resident, who suffered from hypertension, was waiting television with his son, Stephen Jr., when he suffered what may have been a stroke.

"He is the apostrophe of all that is good in police work," said Det. Eugene Johnston, a four year veteran of Plainfield's police force who also said Jordan was "definitely one of the reasons why he became a police officer." "He had a lot of respect. Everyone respected him, young and old alike."

Steve Jordan was born in New York and raised in Plainfield. He joined Plainfield's force in 1968 and served for 25 years before retiring in 1994. He has won many accommodations, including three citations as an award for Police Officer of the Year by the Plainfield Ebony Police Association, the Distinguished Service Award from the Plainfield Jaycees, and the NAACP's Outstanding Leadership Dedicated Service to Youth Award.

Jordan was known for his many community projects especially the work he has done for youth. He was a founder of the DARE program in Plainfield, an instructor of the Kew-Forest for children, and at the time of his death, head of Plainfield's recreation department. It was he many credit for the boost athletics has received over the years. "Thirty years ago when we didn't even have a basketball team," said Sgt. Gregory Johnson, a friend of Jordan's for 19 years. "Last year, they went to the state championships and won. I would say he was a strong driving force."

In 1977, he co-founded the Ebony Police Association, a organization supporting Plainfield's African-American police officers, who has grown in Plainfield, an instructor of the Kew-Forest for children, and at the time of his death, head of Plainfield's recreation department. It was he many credit for the boost athletics has received over the years. "Thirty years ago when we didn't even have a basketball team," said Sgt. Gregory Johnson, a friend of Jordan's for 19 years. "Last year, they went to the state championships and won. I would say he was a strong driving force."

He was also an active member of the Stone Square Lodge 38 P.H.A. & A.M., Past Masters Council, Golconda Temple No. 24 Shriners of Newark, former Grand District Deputy of the 6th Masonic District of New Jersey.

Besides his son Stephen, he is survived by his wife Nancy, a daughter, Ramona Baker of Somerset, a stepbrother, Eric Guibler of Newark, and four stepdaughters, Carol Jenkins of Plainfield, Constance Day of Lawrence Ga., Yvonne Pernell of Moorestown, and Brenda Guibler of Guam.

Newark Boys Chorus perform at King observance at Fort Monmouth

by Avery Grant

FORT MONMOUTH, NJ.—The Newark Boys Chorus performed at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Service in the Fort Monmouth Post Chapel.

The 38-voice chorus entertained the capacity audience with pop, spiritual and patriotic renditions. Starting with a classical folk tune, "Minister Man," followed Good News and Sit Down Servant. Throughout their repertoire, they exhibited the poise, discipline and professionalism that has arisen from their challenging academic and education at their Newark school.

Their stirring rendition of "America, the Beautiful," and the standing ovation from the audience, clearly demonstrated why they are known as "Newark's Musical Ambassadors." They have performed in Canada, Czechoslovakia, Australia, New Zealand and in many other international countries.

The guest speaker for the Dr. King observance was, Chaplain Otis L. Mitchell. Chaplain Mitchell is currently stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona, but was previously assigned to the Chaplain School at Fort Monmouth. He has been recreating Dr. King's sermons and speaking about Dr. King's life and influence since 1975, and has presented his recreation before the



Newark Boys Choir at Fort Monmouth

King family in Atlanta, Georgia.

"Hopefully what I have to say today will make you uncomfortable," Chaplain Otis said in his beginning remarks, "Fort was President Kennedy said that probably Bill Connor's unleashing the firehoses and dogs on the crowds did more for the Movement than anyone else because he pricked the conscience of our Nation."

Discussing some of Dr. King's academic achievements, he said, "Dr. King didn't just get book knowledge, he got it in his soul and he used it. That's what true education is, but above all he was a man of God." Chaplain Otis challenged the audience to insure that the dream does not become a nightmare, by allowing it to remain just a dream.

He spoke of the callousness of the

bombing of the Federal Building, the drug dealing activities, the inequalities against African Americans, native Americans, Asian, Hispanic, and religious intolerance and stated that the dream had become a nightmare. Illustrating his point, he said, "There are (white) people who wear a T-shirt with Michael Jordan on it, and who talk about him as though he were one of them. Yet they would not invite someone like him into their home."

Referring to this year's theme, "Make Real the Dream, Franchise the Vision for the 21st Century," Chaplain Otis urged, "To go into the 21st Century we must leave this racism behind. We must stand up and say something when something is wrong, regardless of your position, just remember you are someone."

Myrlie Evers-Williams urges blacks to embrace education

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Black Americans will be left behind unless they embrace education, says Myrlie Evers-Williams, widow of slain civil rights worker Medgar Evers and chair of the NAACP board of directors.

Addressing a packed house Monday night at Clowes Memorial Hall on the Butler University campus, Evers-Williams also urged all Americans to exercise their right to vote.

At stake, she said, are a wide range of issues decided by elected officials: affirmative action, welfare and education.

"The first time around I won by one vote," said Evers-Williams, who was elected chairwoman of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People two years ago. "But that helped change the course of an organization and we can change the course of this nation. That is what the civil rights movement is about today. It is not going back to the sit-ins-the prayer-ins."

Evers-Williams appeared to reject the teaching of "ebonics"—black English—and urged the gathering of students, faculty and others to keep up with the latest technological developments.

"We need to be up on everything that is happening today," she said, recalling how her granddaughter chastised her for lacking computer skills.

"I've not had the equipment in our classrooms, if our children don't know how to use computers, if we don't know how to—and I emphasize this—speak grammatically correct... as we African-Americans, we as people regardless of race or color, are going to be left behind—and the way is education. Time will not wait for any of us."

The Oakland, Calif., school board



came under fire last year after it decided to recognize black English, or ebonics—a combination of the words ebon and phonics—as a separate language that merited federal funding to teach it in schools. It later modified its policy to say simply that ebonics is traceable to African languages slaves brought to America.

Evers-Williams said she was disturbed by media portrayals of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as the leader of the civil rights movement. King always emphasized that he was only a part of a movement with millions of participants, she said.

"(He) always said 'I am not the leader alone. I would not be here if not for you, each and every one of you who support me and help me move ahead,'" Evers-Williams said.

"And I think of Medgar Evers, who always called those people who were always there, those foot soldiers, the salt of the earth. That's why we have been able to move ahead... no one person."

Evers, the Mississippi field director for the NAACP, was shot to death as he returned home in 1963. Avowed white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith was sentenced to life in prison in 1964 for killing the civil rights leader. 30 years after his first two murder trials ended in hung juries.

TV minister emerges as new 'Friend of President'

WASHINGTON, D.C. (AP)—

Televised minister and author Robert H. Schuller has emerged as one of President Clinton's friends in recent months, commending Bible passages to the president that he has used on various public and private occasions.

Schuller, the host of "The Hour of Power" television ministry, visited the White House the weekend before last month's inauguration and sat next to first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton during the State of the Union address February 4.

In a recent interview with The Washington Post, Schuller said that his sharing of a passage from Isaiah in the Old Testament seems to have struck a chord with the president.

He used the passage as the basis for portions of his inaugural address

Jan. 20 and again in his State of the Union address last Tuesday.

"He thought he grabbed the Bible verse, but I think he grabbed the Post," Schuller told the Post. "I said to him in the last few days, 'I wish you could see yourself with a pastoral heart, not a political heart.' And by golly, that's what's doing. I don't think he knows it... But with the verse, he's a pastor to the nation, not a politician."

The passage—Isaiah 58:12—that has so appealed to the president is: "And they that shall be of the house shall build the old waste places; thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in."

The Post quotes White House

aides as saying Clinton got to know Schuller early in his first term after the 70-year-old minister sent him a letter and then they talked or wrote occasionally over the years, finally meeting in person for the first time in February 1995 when Clinton invited Schuller to spend the night in the Lincoln Bedroom.

Schuller acknowledged to the paper that some of his more conservative viewers are not happy that he associates with the Clintons, but said he finds no irony in growing close to a leader whose real or alleged past sins have been so thoroughly examined in public.

"There are real character accusations against him, but you can't pass judgment until they're proven," Schuller said.

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Rare volume documents black successes in early Houston

By **Claudia Kolker**
Houston Chronicle

HOUSTON—Patricia Prather wasn't sure anything worthwhile lay in the paper scraps she requested from the 90-year-old printer's wife.

But Ms. Prather, an expert in black history and a self-titled urban archaeologist, knew how to excavate. And as she sifted the detritus from the long-gone Fifth Ward printing shop, something called to her. It was a weathered crimson volume, and it said, "The Red Book" in an 80-year-old typeface.

Peering inside, Ms. Prather entered another world: the bustling, driven, idealistic life of black Houstonians in 1915.

Nearly unknown and extraordinarily rare—the printer's wife and the Central Library may possess the only originals—the Houston Red Book was the brainchild of black editor and pioneer Emmett J. Scott. "A Compendium of Social, Professional, Religious, Educational and Industrial Interests of Houston's Colored Population" is how Scott billed it, and he didn't much overstate the scope.

Inside, the crisply printed volume swarms with names, addresses, statistics, photos, biographies and essays on the state of African-Americans in Houston.

"This book came out 50 years after slavery," explains Ms. Prather, who had heard of the volume but never saw one until that day at the printer's in 1987. "I mean, 'Hey, we have arrived. We are ex-slaves and look what we've done.' I think it's a very bragadocious book."

Ms. Prather, who reprinted a few

copies of the Central Library's Red Book but has no more left, thinks Houston's African-American elite probably paid for entries, much like members of the traditionally white Blue Book or Social Register. But the 192-page Red Book's message is considerably more complex than the Blue Book's. Mingled with photographs of exquisitely dressed black citizens, their schools and houses, and catalogues of their achievements, essay after essay in the Red Book tells why its images mattered.

"Simply with a desire to give true inspiration through a permanent record of achievement to those of the race who appreciate its value," the publishers wrote, "this book is dedicated to those who stand for the uplift." The result is a dense, paradoxical portrait of hundreds of achievers whose parents were slaves, achievers like James S. Rutledge, a railway postal clerk whose descendants still live in Houston.

Born on a Hempstead farm in 1876, Rutledge made his way to Houston in 1904, got a coveted job as a railway postal clerk, and helped found the all-black National Alliance of Postal Employees in 1913.

Stolid and strong-featured, Rutledge personifies self-confidence in his Red Book photos. In the group picture of the postal unionists, he stands with feet planted apart, looking slightly upward as if at some far-off beacon.

Yet the reality Rutledge lived was pitted with obstacles, his great-niece, Gladys Rutledge Edwards says.

"I would still like to know how he approached someone to get that job" in those segregated times, Ms. Edwards says.

"His route ran from Houston to Albuquerque, New Mexico," she adds. "I've been told there were places they had to hide him in some parts of Texas. No one could know he was a black mail clerk on that train... there was no knowing what could have happened to him."

Such details, though, would never surface in the resolutely optimistic Red Book.

Instead, the volume's writers

stressed a world getting better each day. "Despite the existence of a few critics, carpers and cranks, racial prejudices between the white and black races in the South are dying out," the introduction says. "No longer does either race desire to carry or be carried on the back of the other."

This optimism was more than just denial in a day when segregation and discrimination split Houston in two. For one thing, the achievements of the black community were exhilarating, Ms. Prather says. Of all the Red Book's photographs, the most symbolic to her is that of the Colored High School, built in 1893 near Antioch Baptist Church.

"It was one of the first high schools for Negroes in the state of Texas," Ms. Prather says. "It was one of the few opportunities for Negro children to get an education."

Next door stood the Colored Carnegie Library, organized in 1907 and also depicted in the Red Book. Emmett J. Scott, the Red Book's editor, by 1910 had been asked by Booker T. Washington to work at the Tuskegee Institute. With what must have been a masterful mix of boldness and tact, Scott approached industrialist Andrew Carnegie during a visit to Tuskegee, and asked his help in building a library for Houston blacks.

Carnegie agreed, on the condition that the community buy the land and pay 10 percent annually for its upkeep.

In addition to their successes, Ms. Prather adds, men like Rutledge and Scott lived in a more rarefied world than most African-Americans of their time.

"There was pain and horror and suffering all around them, but you have to come back to who was writing the book," Ms. Prather says. "The Red Book is reflective of the best and the brightest" of the 1915 black community.

Segregation also had made the black community almost an island unto itself. For the lucky ones inside that enclave, life offered most of the same pleasures it did the white community.

Society ladies could be fetchingly immortalized by photographer C.G. Harris, who took all of the Red Book's

pictures. And Red Book subjects seemed to take a special pride in forswearing bitterness against whites.

The five-page biography of "J.B. Bell, Capitalist," noted: "He is the owner of a large seven-passenger Cadillac, (the photo) of which appears in these pages, and he and his wife are generous dispensers of their hospitality with the same. A noted instance of their generosity with their automobile is proven in the fact that they have, on several occasions, loaned it to the family of Dr. G.A. McDonell, a nurse gentleman, now in modest circumstances, but one to whom Mr. Bell feels that he owes a great deal for his start in life, having once been in his employment."

Only in a few instances does the Red Book betray the harshness of life in those days. In a section called "Negro Health Problem," the author notes matter-of-factly, "General sanitation is a condition over which we have little or no control. As a rule, if there is a marshy place in the larger cities, where

drainage is almost impossible and where malaria, typhoid fever and tuberculosis are constantly present, we are assigned to that region with the promise that when we are once established, the city will extend its sewers. Once we are there our petitions are lost off the files and we are forgotten."

But the passage is nearly buried in an essay otherwise brimming with recommendations for healthy living. Likewise, the Red Book's essays themselves are overshadowed by its rich images: women in Sunday clothes and nurse uniforms, men posing before big Victorian houses or in offices like A.G. Perkins & Co., a black-owned law firm.

"I'm very thankful for my accomplishments," says Ms. Edwards, who grew up in an achievement-oriented family, and has one son who is a dentist and another trained in law.

"But I think if I had known more about my family, that that against those odds," she says, "maybe I would have striven even harder."

Father years for Justice

Continued from page one

Lifsh was driving a car in the motorcade of Rebbe Menachem Schneerson, spiritual leader of the ultra-Orthodox Lubavitch sect.

As the motorcade rushed through a residential neighborhood, escorted by an unmarked police car, Lifsh's car lost control and skidded onto a sidewalk, striking Gavin. Prosecutors said the car was traveling at 45 to 50 mph in a 25 mph zone.

A grand jury declined to indict Lifsh.

During three days of rioting that followed Gavin's death, Rosenbaum, a visiting history scholar from Australia, was surrounded by an angry mob and slain.

One of the two men convicted Monday, Charles Price, was found guilty of violating Rosenbaum's rights by inciting the crowd to attack Jews.

Price and Nelson face prison terms of up to life, but under federal sentencing guidelines are likely to draw lesser penalties.

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